

CLAIMS

The invention is defined by the following claims.

- 1 A freezable alcoholic beverage comprising alcohol, mixer and a stabiliser.
- 2 A beverage according to claim 1 which has a crystalline structure when
5 frozen.
- 3 A beverage according to claim 1 or 2 in which the alcohol is selected from a group including wine, spirits or liqueurs.
- 4 A beverage according to any one of claims 1 to 3 in which the mixer consists essentially or only of water.
- 10 5 A beverage according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the stabiliser comprises vegetable gum selected from the group of guar gum, locust bean gum and xanthan gum or a mixture of any of them.
- 6 A beverage according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the stabiliser is a dextrin or a mixture of dextrins.
- 15 7 A beverage according to claim 5 or 6 in which the stabiliser consists essentially of a mixture of locust bean gum, pectin and xanthan gum in the ratio of about 35:15:3.
- 8 A beverage according to claim 5 or 6 in which the stabiliser consists essentially of a mixture of sugar, locust bean gum, pectin and xanthan gum
20 in the ratio of about 47:35:15:3.
- 9 A beverage according to any one of the preceding claims further including a mixer selected from the group of water, water-based mixers and dairy-based mixers, including milk, cream and yoghurt.
- 10 A beverage according to any one of the previous claims further comprising

11 A beverage according to any one of the previous claims further comprising
one or more of citric acid, modified fats, air or emulsifying agents, gelling
5 agents, thickening agents, anti-foaming agents and firming agents.

12 A beverage according to any one of claims 5 to 8 consisting essentially of a
stabiliser, alcohol, citric acid, water, sweetener and one or more additives
selected from the group of preservatives, colourants, flavourants and
sweeteners.

10 13 A beverage according to any one of the previous claims further comprising
fruit.

14 A method for preparing a freezable alcoholic beverage, including the step
of mixing an alcohol-water solution and a stabiliser so that the stabiliser is
dissolved in the alcohol-water solution and the beverage is then frozen.

15 15 A method according to claim 14 in which the stabiliser consists essentially
of a mixture of locus bean gum, pectin and xanthan gum in the ratio of
about 35:15:3.

16 A method according to claim 14 in which the stabiliser consists essentially
of a mixture of sugar, locust bean gum, pectin and xanthan gum in the ratio
20 of about 47:35:15:3.

17 A method according to any one of claims 14 to 16 further including the step
of first dissolving sugar in water before adding to the alcohol-water solution
and the stabiliser.

18 A method for preparing a freezable alcoholic beverage, including the steps
25 of:

(a) dissolving sugar in warm water to form a sugar solution;

- 5 (b) preparing a solution of citric acid dissolved in water and mixing it into the sugar solution;
- (c) separately mixing a stabiliser evenly into hot water and allowing it to hydrate, before adding this mixture to the mixture of solutions of step (b);
- (d) subsequently adding an alcohol solution or emulsion to the mixture of solutions of step (c);
- (e) adding cold water to make up a predetermined volume.
- 10 19 The method of claim 18 further including after step (d) the step of adding one or more additives selected from the group of preservatives, colourants and flavourants.
- 20 20 The method of claim 18 or 19 in which stabiliser comprises dextrin or a mixture of dextrans.
- 15 21 The method of claim 18 or 19 in which stabiliser consists essentially of a pre-mix of sugar, pectin, locus bean gum and xanthan gum.
- 22 22 A method according to any one of claims 18 to 21 in which a preservative is added to the initial sugar-water solution of step (a) before the addition of the citric acid.
- 20 23 A method according to claim 22 in which the preservative is sodium benzoate.
- 24 24 A method according to any one of claims 18 to 23 in which the alcohol solution is wine.
- 25 25 A method according to any one of claims 18 to 23 in which the alcohol solution or emulsion includes water, a water-based mixer or a dairy-based mixer, including milk, cream and yoghurt.

- 26 A frozen alcoholic beverage made according to the method of any one of claims 14 to 25.
- 27 A frozen alcoholic product comprising a freezable alcoholic beverage according to any one of claims 1 to 13 when contained in a package (as herein defined).
- 28 A product according to claim 27, in which the package is composed of foil and plastic.
- 29 A product according to claim 28 in which the package is composed of a nylon/polyethylene extrusion laminate.
- 30 ^{Comp}_B A product comprising a freezable alcoholic beverage according to any one of claims 1 to 13 shaped in the form of an ice-stick or ice-cream.

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